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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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***FUNDING FOR ARIZONA'S PREDATOR MISSION RESTORED***  
***Congress to Include \$82.8 Million in Federal Budget for Program***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano today announced that Governors were successful in repeatedly pressuring Congress to fund the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program for National Guard programs in five states, including Arizona.

Governor Napolitano and her counterparts from four other states wrote to Congress last month, urging members to restore the program. Since 2004, the Arizona National Guard had been targeted for the program, but funding had been zeroed out and the program postponed several times since then. Napolitano did not back down, repeatedly contacting members of Congress and leaders in the National Guard Bureau to stress the importance of a Predator Program in Arizona.

“This is excellent news for our National Guard,” said Napolitano. “The Predator program is the future of the military and the Guard, and I am pleased to see that our persistence has paid off.”

The Predator UAV is considered the wave of the future for the military. In addition to being a drone, the UAV is less expensive and more versatile than traditional military aircraft. It can be used in war missions overseas, and at the international border for drug interdiction and other law enforcement support functions.

Congress has allocated \$82.8 million in funding for the program for the next fiscal year, to be shared by Guard units from Arizona, California, New York, North Dakota and Texas.